

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MAY 12, 2005

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, May 12, 2005 at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:30 PM, by Chairman Paul Neves, with the following present:

Paul Neves, Chairman, Arthur DeCosta, Clerk, Rosa Crowley, Linda Teel, Robert C. Thibodeau, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Joseph M. Nasif, Superintendent, Donna A. Morelle, Assistant Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director Legal Services/Employee Relations

Tardy: Donald J. Costa, Vice Chair

The Chair reported that Executive Session was held at 6:45 p.m. and the committee was pleased to bring forward the name of Dr. Donna Morelle as Superintendent of Schools on a 6-0 vote with Mr. Costa being absent. This will be dealt with under the proper agenda item. The Chair also explained Mr. Costa was coaching and will arrive later.

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Superintendent introduced Brook Grenier, a fifth grade student at Community School, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair asked for a moment of silence to

honor the youthful tragedies in the area.

II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE moving Item XII. New Business to follow IV. Student Recognition. .

On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the amended agenda.

III. Student Recognition - The Superintendent reported that Brook Grenier was the first place winner of the local AAA traffic safety poster contest and will be going on to a national competition. Brook displayed her poster.

Mrs. Cooney reported on student achievements. Daniel Cardin placed 9th in the National French Contest at level 0-1; Amelia Dragosta placed 8th at Level 1, Katherine Lewinski placed 7th in Level 3, Ross Cunningham placed first in the state at level 4; and Allison Hansen-Decelles placed 9th place in Level 4; Jessica Fedalgo placed 9th in level 5. She reported Ross Cunningham placed 4th on the national level and he was one of 14,000 students.

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IV. New Business

A. Superintendent Appointment - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of Dr. Donna Morelle as Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Thibodeau thanked all the members of the search committee.

The Chair declared a recess at 7:45 p.m. Open Session reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

V. Officer Hooper: Defibrillators - The Superintendent introduced Officer Hooper. She explained her nephew now has an internal defibrillator and started the Gerry Bonner Fund to raise funds for defibrillators. She announced they had raised enough money to place one at each of the two middle schools and the High School. The PTO at North Cumberland Middle School has donated two trainers and a mannequin to train faculty and staff, and hopefully students, at the schools. Officer Hooper's next goal is to place defibrillators at every other school.

VI. Chairperson's Report - None.

VII. Comments from the Public - None.

VIII. Reports of Standing Committees - None.

IX. Consent Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms.

Crowley, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda.

A. Police Report

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Open Session April 14, 2005

2. Executive Session April 14, 2005

C. Maintenance Report

D. Enrollments Report

E. Building Use Report

X. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - The Superintendent reported the steel continues to go up on the Wellness Center and the color schemes have been selected. The Elementary/ Tucker Field building committee met and has selected a contractor for the bleachers. The completion date is June 2006. The bathrooms at the High School continue to be worked on.

B. Search Committee Update - The Superintendent reported a search committee will be formed for the principal position at Community School and for the Director of Building & Grounds.

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C. Affirmative Action Policy: 2nd Reading & Vote - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE waiving the second reading of the Affirmative Action

Policy.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the Affirmative Action Policy as presented.

XI. Superintendent's Recommendations

A. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:

1. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the resignation of Kelly Maher, Teacher Assistant at Cumberland School Department, effective May 1, 2005.

2. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the FMLA leave of Sara Bielecki, English Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective May 27, 2005 to the end of the 2004-2005 school year.

3. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of Richard Reetz, Head Football Coach at Cumberland High School, effective May 13, 2005.

B. General Comments - The Superintendent shared the budget hearing scheduled by the Town. The first hearing is schedule for Thursday May 26th, which is also Honors Night at the High School and there is a scheduled school committee meeting. He has left messages at Town Hall to either reschedule the hearing or the school committee meeting. He publicly offered congratulations to Dr. Morelle for being selected the next Superintendent and he is content to know it is being turned over to someone with a life long

commitment to the Town.

XII. Comments from the Public - None.

XIII. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported next week is spirit week at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill School. He took exception to the comments he heard about the Superintendent Search Committee not taking their job seriously.

Mr. Costa's arrival is noted at 8:05 p.m.

Ms. Teel reported June 5th is the golf tournament for Community School. Mr. DaCosta commented the defibrillators are an important tool and should be in every school. Mr. Thibodeau reported tomorrow is the Honors Breakfast tomorrow at North Cumberland Middle School. He also commented on the public officials getting involved in the Superintendent search. He is looking for a public apology from the Mayor and Councilor Wilkes.

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Mr. Neves reported he and the Superintendent will be meeting with the Mayor on May 19th to discuss budget issues and invited other interested committee members. He stated he received a call telling

him how members voted tonight could dictate their political futures and for the record he stated he isn't using the school committee as a stepping stone in a political career and that it is an honor to serve.

XIV. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. Superintendent Appointment

2. CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

1. CTA/ICSE

No additional Executive Session was needed.

XV. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Wood and Ms. Teel, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 8:15 p.m., with Mr. Thibodeau off the dias.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary